

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN KIDNEY FUND'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Kidney Fund (AKF) for its outstanding leadership in the fight against kidney disease. AKF is located in Rockville, in Maryland's 8th District, and I am proud to be AKF's Representative in Congress. This year marks the organization's 50th anniversary and I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing AKF's five decades of work.

AKF was founded in 1971 by a group of people who came together to help pay for a neighbor's lifesaving dialysis treatment, and in the 50 years since, AKF has become a well-known and widely-respected charitable organization that is dedicated to meeting the needs of people affected by kidney disease. AKF is the nation's leading independent nonprofit advocating on behalf of the 37 million Americans with kidney disease. AKF's vision is a world without kidney disease—but until then, AKF will do everything in its power to ensure that every kidney patient has access to health care, and that every person at risk for kidney disease has the knowledge and resources to help prevent it.

AKF notes that it touches more lives than any other kidney organization, with programs of prevention, early detection, and direct financial assistance that enable the nation's low-income dialysis and transplant patients to access lifesaving medical care, disease management support, clinical research, innovation and advocacy resources. The American Kidney Fund plays a leading role in educating and informing the American people about kidney disease, raising public awareness about the fact that many cases of kidney disease are preventable, and spreading the message that when it is detected early, kidney disease can often be managed and its progression slowed.

Recognizing that advanced kidney disease disproportionately affects minority populations, AKF and its 16,000 Ambassadors have been longtime advocates for these patients and their communities. One area of focus for the organization has been to educate the public about the importance of increasing the participation of minority populations in clinical trials, which are critical to developing better treatments for conditions like kidney disease. Minority populations have historically been underrepresented in these trials, and AKF is dedicated to changing that.

AKF also assists low-income dialysis patients and people who have recently received a kidney transplant, providing financial assistance through Safety Net Grants, Disaster Relief Grants, Health Insurance Premium Program Grants and Coronavirus Emergency Grants. AKF has worked to address longstanding health disparities in the United States and advance health equity so that all of us are as healthy as possible.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of AKF's 50th anniversary, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the American Kidney Fund's unsurpassed leadership in the fight to end kidney disease.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL KAREEM M. NIKOUI

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a hero and true American patriot, Norco resident and Marine Corps Lance Corporal Kareem M. Nikoui. Today, I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to our country on August 26, 2021, as the result of a terror attack in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Through his actions, Lance Corporal Nikoui has evoked pride in his community for many years. He was passionate about the martial art of jiu jitsu and won multiple medals at competitions throughout the region. As a student at Norco High School, Lance Corporal Nikoui joined the Air Force JROTC. He volunteered for Norco's Pearl Harbor anniversary as well as POW events. According to his fellow JROTC cadet Gabrielle Murray, "He was a leader . . . he always tried to help out those in need."

After graduating from high school in 2019, Lance Corporal Nikoui joined the Marine Corps, where he was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines unit stationed at Camp Pendleton. When he was afforded leave, he often returned home to Norco. Eager to share a home-cooked meal and the comforts of home with his fellow Marines, Lance Corporal Nikoui invited many of them to tag along for the short trip to Norco where his parents happily hosted. His father said his son loved his Marine Corps family.

The compassion of Lance Corporal Nikoui once again shined bright during the final days of his life. Thrust into a chaotic and dangerous mission, he performed his duties with courage and empathy for people desperate for refuge and freedom. In addition to providing safe passage for Americans, our partners, and Afghans, Lance Corporal Nikoui sought to comfort children in distress by giving them candy. Through his deeds, he embodied the "no better friend" motto of the unit he served so faithfully until his last breath.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country, we realize that this history is comprised of men and women just like Lance Corporal Nikoui, who bravely fought for the ideals of liberty and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The day the Nikoui family learned of their son and brother's death was surely the hardest day

they have ever faced, and our thoughts, prayers, and deepest condolences go out to them. His sacrifice is forever etched in our nation's great history of freedom triumphing over oppression. Lance Corporal Nikoui's family has given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one, and we hope they know that the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made will never be forgotten.

CONGRATULATING REV. DR. MELVIN L. GRIMES ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVING AS A MINISTER

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes for celebrating 50 years as a Pastor and Minister.

Melvin Grimes is the Pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church as well as Executive Director of Churches United of the Quad City Area. Churches United serves hundreds of thousands of local residents each year by bringing together an ecumenical coalition of Quad City area churches to help feed the hungry, offer emergency assistance to those in crisis; and provide transitional housing for women and children victims of domestic violence or human trafficking. By growing this church and its programs to help the needy, Melvin has made a profound impact in the Quad Cities communities throughout the years, and I commend him for his service not only as a pastor and leader, but also as a community member who cares deeply about other people.

It is because of strong community leaders such as Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally recognize Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes for his 50 years of service to the community and the church.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF NIAGARA COUNTY LEGISLATOR DENNIS VIRTUOSO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of Niagara County Legislator Dennis Virtuoso. Dennis is a dedicated public servant who is retiring after 30 years of service and 15 terms in the Niagara County Legislature.

Dennis is one of just two members to serve three decades in the Niagara County Legislature. As a longtime Democratic Caucus leader, he spent much of his time in office serving in

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